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DE RUEHPE #1765 3121504  
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9561  
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY 2071  
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY 6130  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 7982  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 3534  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 1274  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ NOV 5038  
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY 9624  
RUEHQD/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 2170  
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY 2058  
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY

UNCLAS LIMA 001765

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV PREL PINR PE ASEC  
SUBJECT: GOP DECLARES EMERGENCY TO QUELL VIOLENT PROTESTS  
IN SOUTH

REF: LIMA 1731

¶1. (SBU) Summary: The GOP on November 4th declared a state of emergency in the southern city of Tacna and directed the military to maintain order after violent protestors attacked and burned several government buildings. The protests erupted on October 30th after Congress passed a bill that would redistribute some mining royalty payments from Tacna to neighboring region Moquegua. The state of emergency and an increase in police have restored calm to Tacna for now. Tacna is located far from Lima and events there are unlikely to have any impact on the APEC Summit. End Summary.

¶2. (U) The GOP on November 4th declared a state of emergency in the southern city of Tacna and directed the military to maintain order after violent protestors attacked and burned government buildings. The state of emergency, which will last 30 days, allows the government to arrest protestors without a judicial order and to search private homes, and restricts the rights of free transit and assembly. Currently, about 1,850 military and police are patrolling the city, according to Prime Minister Yehude Simon.

¶3. (SBU) The violent protests in Tacna erupted on October 30th after Congress passed a bill that would redistribute some mining royalty payments from Tacna to neighboring region Moquegua. That day, some two thousand protestors overwhelmed police and burned down two government buildings. (Reftel) On November 4th, after a brief truce, a smaller group of more radical protestors attacked two police stations and a municipal building. A local contact told Poloff the protestors numbered no more than 400, including about 100 he described as nothing more than drug addicts and vandals (although the press reported 4,000 protestors). The clashes left two dead and 48 wounded civilians, as well as 29 injured police.

¶4. (U) The state of emergency and increase in police have restored calm to Tacna for now. On November 5th, local radio stations reportedly called for people to protest peacefully by marching and banging pots. Businesses remained closed throughout the 5th, but press reports that some banks and stores slowly began to reopen on the 6th.

Comment: Protests Far From Lima

¶5. (SBU) Tacna is far Lima -- over 650 miles -- on Peru's southern border with Chile. Protests in Tacna generally do

not affect Lima and are unlikely to have any impact on the upcoming APEC Summit.

MCKINLEY